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## BOOK REVIEWS.

ANY production from the pen of such a scholar as William F. Warren, President of Boston University, L.L.D., S.S.D., Corporate Member of the American Oriental Society, and author of many valuable and scientific works, would necessarily attract the keenest attention among students and thinkers interested in his particular branch of study, but when he brings out a magnificent volume with the startling title, "Paradise Found! The Cradle of the Human Race at the North Pole," one may certainly guarantee a speedy reading and earnest perusal from curiosity if from no higher motive. But when we turn leaf after leaf of the attractive book, printed and illustrated in the well known exquisite neatness and finish of Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s every publication, and to the delight of the eye constantly add the charm of the mind, we settle down to a rare treat which is not often to be found so admirably presented. For in the first place the diction, the polish, the graphic style of this able writer are like music to a delicate literary taste, while the deep learning, the logical argument, the close and earnest method of proof, the enthusiasm and belief bend the mind to their will and lead one insensibly to conviction. The seeming audacity of the idea that the Biblical Eden was literally situated at the North Pole—that region of perpetual snow and ice, that inaccessible land or sea which has defied the approach of human beings for ages—is readily overcome by a single argument, which is the basal thought of the whole theory, and that one may instantly perceive the plausibility of the idea, one has but to read the following:

"In any case, as early as the time when the earth's atmosphere became penetrable by the rays of the sun, local differences of temperature must have been produced at the base of the atmosphere, whether the body of the globe was as yet crusted over or not. Then, as now, viewed apart from air and water currents, every particular spot on the surface of the globe must have had a temperature determined first by the fixed and uniform inherent heat of the earth mass, and secondly by the varying quantity of heat received from the sun. But the difference between the solar heat received at a point under the equator and that received at the pole cannot have been less in those ages than at the present time; and this incessant incumment of the equatorial heat of the earth, by the direct rays of the sun, suggests at once the portions of the globe to which we must look if we would find the regions which first became cool enough to sustain organic life. Then, as now, the polar regions must have been cooler than the equatorial and the conclusion is inevitable that there, to wit, the Polar Regions, life first became possible. The first portions of the earth's surface sufficiently cool to present the conditions of Eden life, were assuredly the poles."

Building on this conclusion, Dr. Warren adds testimony from every science, almost every language, the history of ancient nations, the seeming coincidences of myths and legends—in fact, the whole world for over six thousand years has been drawn upon to witness to the truth of his assertions, and certainly from his delightful work one may gain the most varied information, the most agreeable ideals and a still more exalted opinion of humanity.

THE skill of the Hindoos and the natives of India, in the architecture or adornment of their dwellings, has always been a source of admiration and wonder to those less deft and with those prolific workers who labor amid the unimaginative and uninspiring surroundings of our Western world, and there have been many illustrations, by print and photograph, of their beautiful productions, but none that we remember comparing in any respect either with the judgment in selection, the amplitude of subjects, or the richness of reproduction with the volume sent us by Mr. Lockwood De Forest and entitled "Indian Domestic Architecture," a collection of twenty-five heliotypes, executed in the very best style of the art and upon heavy enameled paper. The illustrations cover examples from every portion of India, and indicate the slight variations in form prevailing during several centuries. A very good idea of the scope of the volume may be had from a consideration of the titles to its plates which, among others, are: House at Ahmedabad, House at Ajmere, Marble tracery in Palace at Delhi, Brass Door at Amritza, House at Lahore, House at Moulton, and Gateway of a Tomb. There are almost a score of other subjects, all presenting the details and the minutiae of the original work so admirably as to be a most enjoyable study. Anyone wishing to understand the attractions of Indian work could find no better teacher than this very book, though we confess that to have a thorough comprehension of it one would find it desirable, in addition to pondering over the plates, to visit the establishment of Mr. De Forest, where the genuine Indian articles, in their original wood and metal, are displayed, and where such a wealth of carving and such an uniqueness of ornament is shown as was probably never gathered together before in one room in this city. A noticeable and creditable feature is the advertisements, a few pages being so appropriated at the back of the volume, which are gotten up in various Indian designs, no two of them alike, and all are useful, and to American designers, are doubtless new.

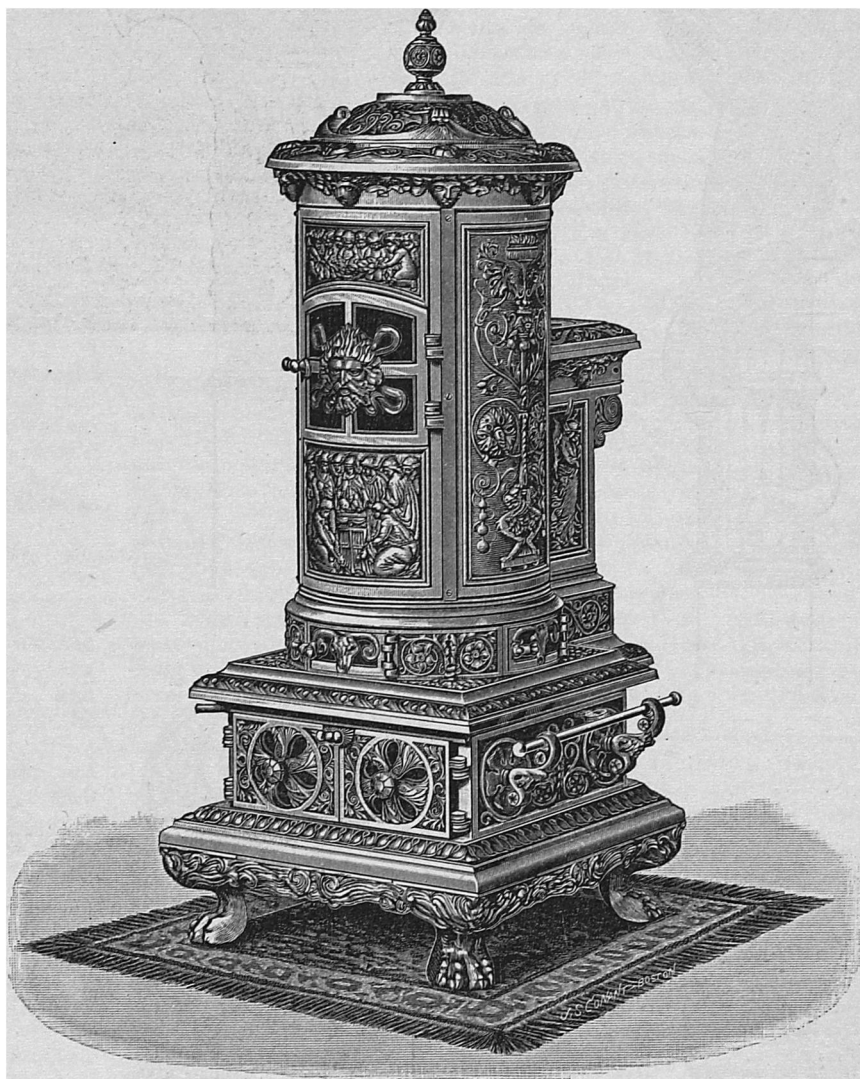
We do regret the absence of all reading matter. A few words explanatory of the plates would have been acceptable, although in the general excellence we lose sight of this omission. (Published by Lockwood De Forest, 9 E. 17th St., N.Y.)

THAT perennial joy to the inventors and manufacturers of our city, and to the much-in-love young maidens of the Nineteenth and adjoining wards, the American Institute Exhibition proposes opening its doors on September 30, and promises such an extraordinary display of novelties as fairly to "paralyze" every attempt that has heretofore been made. The departments seem to have been increased, and while the building cannot very well expand, there is to be more gotten into it in some way; the circular doesn't say exactly how, but we know last year there wasn't any spot perceptible to us that was free from an exhibit of some sort, so when we learn that this is to be still greater we wonder how its all going to be brought about.

There are to be unlimited medals, medals for every conceivable grade that any exhibit may properly be rated in. There's the Medal of Honor, The Special Medal, The Medal of Taste, The Medal of Superiority, so the fortunate fellow who captures the Medal of Superiority can hold his head just as high as though there weren't half a dozen other medals away up ahead of his, and his in fact the lowest in the "show." But the title of it pleases, and titles go a good ways.

Then there are diplomas for those who are so execrably bad that no excuse on earth can be found for giving them anything that is likely to wear so long as a medal. The diplomas are for "Maintained Superiority," which means, according to the rank of the medals, "still as bad as ever," and the diploma of "Continued Excellence," meaning "a little worse than the other." There are no blanks, however, and everybody gets something.

The exhibition is to open with a floral display lasting three days, and it certainly will be worth seeing; in fact the whole



THE LATEST PATTERNS IN CYLINDER STOVES.  
Designed and Manufactured by  
SMITH & ANTHONY STOVE COMPANY.

thing, novelties, music, pretty girls, is worth more than one visit, and we presume the majority of New Yorkers go there at least once during the season—as they should do.

DISCRIMINATION OF COLORS.—The estimation of color being connected with the impression produced upon the retina it is readily to be seen that the human eye will not always equally well perform that function. The different points of the retina are not alike ready to appreciate colors. To distinguish the details of an object, it is necessary to direct the look toward it, or, in other words, to produce an image upon the central region of the retina, where the acuteness of physiological perception is much the greatest. The same is the case for colors. When we keep the look in a determined direction, and put a colored body in the visual field in such a way that its image is produced laterally, we remark that the notion of color is more and more weakened as we remove from central vision, and disappears at the limits of the field. But the most important fact is, that in the different views the colors are not distinguished from one another with equal facility, and that we sometimes come to the point of confounding colors which really seem to be most discordant, as green and red. The discovery of this particular form of infirmity is due to Dalton, who was very strongly affected by it and who carefully analyzed the errors of his judgment. This fault, which remained unperceived for so long a time, is in reality quite frequent. About ten persons in a hundred make mistakes in the comparison of colors marked enough to be detected by an attentive examination. Generally the imperfection is not accompanied with grave inconveniences, and is corrected unconsciously by the operation of habit, the recollection

of objects, and the judgments of others. But the annoyance becomes extreme when one can not distinguish, for example, red from green, a cherry or a ripe strawberry amid the foliage, or a green from a red light in railway or ship signals. Artists sometimes have marked predilections for certain colors. Lesueur put a profusion of blue into all his paintings, and Turner seems to have sought and found red everywhere. It might be worth while to investigate whether the choice of their favorite colors by some painters is wholly intentional or is a consequence of a physiological state. Color-blind persons are generally so by birth, but the affection may sometimes be the result of an accident.—From "The Physiology of Colors," by M. E. MASCART, in *Popular Science Monthly* for September.

We have received in common with other publishers and the public generally, very many proofs of the capacity of Matthews, Northrop & Co., of Buffalo, to produce printing which compares with any that has been produced by the other foremost houses, both artistically and mechanically, but under the circumstances we have no remembrance of such a creditable piece of work as their "Free Niagara," just issued.

The circumstances to which we refer embrace the almost total destruction of their establishment in April last by fire and the attendant losses and inconveniences natural to such a catastrophe. Despite this, however, they have published a pamphlet of about thirty-two pages descriptive with letter press and illustrations of the New Niagara Park.

Aside from the typographical attractiveness of the work, it is interesting and instructive reading, giving the history of the idea which finally developed into the present beautiful park. Interest was created in the project, it seems, by suggestions coming from Lord Dufferin, and the action taken by the Governor soon put an intangible hint into practical shape. It is no discredit to us that we are partly indebted for this improvement to the only Englishman in public office who seems to have the brains to know what he should do and how to do it. The illustrations, by Fleming, are in his usual artistic style.

IN THE CENTURY for September is printed "A Woman's Diary of the Siege of Vicksburg," of which the following is a part. H— is the husband of the writer, and the date is July 7: "One of the men at headquarters took a fancy to H—, and presented him with a portfolio, that he said he had captured when the Confederates evacuated their headquarters at Jackson. It contained mostly family letters written in French, and a few official papers. Among them was the following note, which I will copy here, and file away the original as a curiosity when the war is over.

'HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF TENN.,

'TUPELO, Aug. 6, 1862.

'CAPT: The Major-General Commanding directs me to say that he submits it altogether to your own discretion whether you make the attempt to capture General Grant or not. While the exploit would be very brilliant if successful, you must remember that failure might be disastrous to you and your men. The General commends your activity and energy and expects you to continue to show these qualities.

'I am, very respectfully, yr. obt. svt.

'THOMAS L. SNEAD, A. A. G.

'CAPT. GEO. L. BAXTER,

'Commanding Beauregard Scouts.'"

THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, by John Swinton, is a seasonable publication by Scribners Sons, and coming at a time when the history of the war is being intelligently and impartially ventilated, is a valuable and instructive work.

The volume comprehends the entire record of this particular army from its formation and first organization under Gen. McDowell, through the disastrous Manassas episode to the closing days of glory when Richmond fell, and the reason for the existence of such a body of armed men was at an end.

It does full justice to Gen. McClellan's marked organizing abilities, and shows how the army, from a disrupted, orderless, almost riotous mob, became in three months a disciplined effective force; it also does full justice to McClellan's unfortunate failure to make any practical use of this magnificent body of soldiers, and shows most understandingly the succession of almost disastrous events that could have no other logical conclusion than the removal of the commander. It follows the campaigns of General Grant, illustrates how greatly mistaken he was in the belief that he could accomplish the results sought through the mere preponderance of numbers, and then it shows how, when he discovered that this calculation was a false one, he went back to strategic movements, and out-generated and finally conquered his opponent regardless of numbers or any accidental circumstances.

The record of the Southern generals is depicted in its true light also. We find that Gen. Lee anticipated almost every move General Grant made, and was prepared to receive him; it holds forth Gen. Lee as one of the most brilliant and capable of modern commanders as well as a character demanding respect and consideration; it indicates the superiority of Beauregard and Johnston at Bull Run and their quick-witted appreciation of advantages that, grasped by them and overlooked by our own officers, lost us the first battle of the war.

To anyone who wishes to understand the war as it was, to study the moves and motives upon both sides, to learn honestly and without prejudice the relative merits and actions of the contending armies, there has been no book published that will be found more useful than this very one before us.